

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, June 27, 2013

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding

1. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call by Canetana Hurd
- Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent excused: Phillip Chen
Approval of Minutes – Chair motion to approve May 2013 minutes, seconded, and carried.
MSC – Perrou/Huffman/DeBose

2. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **Executive Committee Report** – Delores Huffman reported on the June 13 meeting.
 - 1) Funding for Profiles of Hope - pending approval
 - 2) Reviewed fiscal year 2013-14 annual retreat goals
 - 3) The following meetings will be dark in August: MHC/SAAC Chairs; Executive Committee; and Full Commission
 - 4) Recommendations made for 14th Annual Profiles of Hope awards honorees
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – Meeting date June 11, 2013
 - 1. Yvette Townsend continues to work with 3 SAACs on the pilot to increase membership.
 - 2. Discussed reinstating the legislative breakfast
- **Annual Retreat Update** – Hosting a retreat is an opportunity to review past goals and plan forward on new goals. The Commission will place goals on the webpage after full review by Executive Committee and full Commission members.
- **Bylaws Committee Report** – Barry Perrou reported that the next meeting will be July 2. He further stated many Commissioners will be termed out in couple of years. Items in the bylaws need to be concrete to identify the roles and responsibilities of Commissioners. The committee members are Barry Perrou, Larry Gasco, Jerry Lubin, Vicky Sofro, and Judy Cooperberg.
- **CALMHBC Report** – Topics
 - 1) The CALMHBC meeting was held July 21-22 in San Francisco
 - 2) Discussed roles and responsibilities that will change with new laws particularly the Welfare and Institutions Codes.
 - 3) There is no way to contact each other on the CALMHBC. Commissioner DeBose was given the task to develop a roster.

- 4) Many of the Commissioners are intimidated by their Mental Health Directors.
- 5) LA County members discussed the December 20 meeting in Lancaster and the importance of taking the meeting to the people.
- 6) Developed organizational chart and elected officers
- 7) Next CALMHBC meeting will be October 2013 in Sacramento.
- **SLT (System Leadership Team) Report – Jerry Lubin** reported the history of SLT formation. He stated that he will be giving an update monthly on the local needs and problems in the communities. Mr. Lubin further discussed a two-way communication system that will ensure all 8 service areas are informed by the liaison assigned to the SLT.

3. **Public Comments**

- Lolita S. Namocatcat – Implementation of nutrition class for the grade school students that may supplement them in daily needs.
- Marissa Squirrel Celeste – I would like to see each SAAC have a DMH sponsored Peer Run Center. This center would help provide ongoing support, groups, and vocational/educational linkage. It would also include mandatory biannual 1 day trainings for all peers employed in the system as well as provide a safe environment to address abuse. These centers would have more field support peers than “center-bound” peers. Overall it would provide ongoing support and also be a gateway to community support.
- Marissa Squirrel Celeste – I heard that some veterans programs provide a “legal clinic” several times a year to assist with learning of legal issues. To my knowledge, there is no such supports in the mental health system. I would like to see such workshops made available to all mental health consumers along with field support from a peer once the workshops have helped set up the initial process to address legal issues. Linkage to legal aid is not enough support when working thought symptoms.
- Gail Evangelidi – Questioning LPS Guidelines
 - 1) Who evaluated choice of seeking LPS
 - 2) Post Right of Family to request LPS and seek 2nd opinion
 - 3) Reduce costs to county by treating
 - 4) Give people back their life
 - 5) Create state of art mental health hospital – raise the bar on mental health treatment.
- **Sharon Dunas** – LPS designated LA County hospital do not uphold the LPS law. To allow 15 to 20 hospitalizations for its mentally ill individuals with no call for conservatorship is costing the county millions of dollars, causing undue stress for families, and from those with a psychiatric diagnosis. It is cruelty to others to allow this to happen in LA County.
- **Patricia Russell** – Update on Jail Mental Health. Dr. Larry Gasco and I met with Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald on June 14th to discuss implementing the Education Board Incarceration Programs into Jail Mental Health. We agreed to work together. Terri McDonald will help give

clearance to music therapist, creative writing instructors, speakers, etc. to JMH.

- **Dennis Miller** – Announced about the annual meals on wheels fund raiser in Glendale in July 2013 and a fundraiser by the Salvation Army ministry to help shut ins with meals each day. I brought flyers to hand out on the information table to let other know.

4. **DMH Report – Marvin J. Southard, DSW, Director, reported the following:**

- 1) The 7th International Conference at USC. DMH was instrumental.
- 2) Governor signed the budget. DMH will keep \$40 million. The growth formula is positive for mental health services. Senator Steinberg's proposal passed for augmenting mental health services. Regulations for new issues still need work.
- 3) The trailer bill is adequate. The alcohol bill moves under health benefits and includes the historic benefit expansion. The County match will be paid by state funding. This is a major pivot in public policy.

5. **Nominations Committee Report – Jerry Lubin, Vice Chair**

Mr. Lubin announced the following slate of nominees

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairman | Larry Gasco |
| Vice Chair | Herman DeBose |
| Secretary | Delores Huffman |
| Members at Large | Barry Perrou and Victoria Sofro |
| CALMHBC Coordinator | Frank Baron |
| Past Chair | Jerry Lubin |

Mr. Lubin opened the floor for nominations – No further nominations were made. Chairman motioned to accept current slate.

MSC - Gasco/McNeill/Askins

Chairman thanked Nominations committee and congratulated new appointments.

6. **Program Update – Women's Community Reintegration Program**

Commissioner Perrou introduced the guest speaker, Catherine Clay

Ms. Clay discussed that she has always had a passion for helping people, starting back when she use to open up her home for homeless youth eighteen years ago. Ms. Clay is a foster parent for the County of San Bernardino Children's and Family Services. She is am also a peer advocate for families and women receiving mental health services, ambassador at Women's Community Re-Integration Services & Education Center (WCRSEC), and Co-Founder of SOARS (Sisters of Action Recovery). Ms. Clay is survivor of child molestation and sexual assault and has been diagnosed with Major

Depression. Working with the women of WCRSEC has allowed Ms. Clay to develop and find her voice. She stated that she is very passionate about advocating for housing, employment, family reunification, treatment of person with mental illness and addressing culture needs. Her most rewarding experiences are assist families with family re-unification services including advocating for housing and employment. Having the opportunity to work as a peer in the supportive employment program at WCRSEC gave her the opportunity to work as a county volunteer who provide the skills and training needed to be selected for the first peer health navigator training.

WCRSEC is a resource and education center that provides a comprehensive approach to meet the needs of women who face mental health, co-occurring substance abuse and legal issues. The goal is to assist women who have been incarcerated to reintegrate and become successful members of their communities. Housing, financial support, job coaching, family connection, education and recovery in a compassionate and realistic manner will ensure success with life goals.

Ms. Clay is currently working on a project called "How to Retrain." In addition to the health navigation training and working with consumers Ms. Clay will contribute to developing healthy neighborhoods.

7. **Commissioners' Reports**

- **Commissioner Delores Huffman** attended the Housing Conference Training. Housing resource information provided was plentiful.
- **Commissioner Cooperberg** announced four initial trainings have taken place for 113 law enforcement personnel

8. **SAAC/Community Reports/LACCC**

SAAC Reports

SAAC 4 – Lolita Namocatcat recommended everyone see a movie about mental health.

SAAC 5 – Pathways Wellness event was announced

SAAC 8 – John Czernek announced over 60 attended the meeting that featured a presentation on advocacy and activism. Mr. Czernek further reported the SAAC has received eleven new applications for membership and 23 members are re-applying. Dr. Steve Goodwin discussed strategic planning.

Los Angeles County Client Coalition (LACCC) – Pam Inaba announced over 200 consumers attended the Innovations conference. At the last meeting the group discussed year end accomplishments, plans to visit each SAACs, and elections. The group meets every third Friday.

9. **Meeting adjourned/NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, July 25, 2013

11 am – 1:30 pm

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration - Room 739

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd